

in our national defense, which could have very serious consequences for our national security.

Less than 3 years ago, the bipartisan National Defense Strategy Commission released a report warning—warning—that our readiness had eroded to the point where we might struggle to win the war against a major power like Russia or China. And while we have made some real progress since then, we still have a lot of work to do to ensure that our military is prepared to defend our Nation and meet the threats of the 21st century. The Biden budget would send us right back to the situation that we faced 3 years ago.

I guess it is not surprising that a budget that fails to be serious about fiscal realities would fail to be serious about national security realities, but it is deeply concerning that the President doesn't seem to understand the importance of investing in our national defense.

President Biden has made the priorities of liberal interest groups the top priorities for his administration—whether that is canceling the Keystone XL's good-paying jobs and economic growth to please the environmental left or overturning the Mexico City policy so that taxpayer dollars can go to fund abortions overseas.

On the question of abortion, President Biden's budget abandons decades of bipartisan compromise and eliminates the Hyde amendment, which protects taxpayers from having their tax dollars used to fund abortions here at home. You would think that if we can't agree that the human rights of unborn children should be protected, we should at least agree that a taxpayer shouldn't be forced to pay for the killing of unborn children.

Almost 60 percent of Americans oppose using taxpayer dollars to pay for abortions, but President Biden has made it clear that his allegiance to the radical abortion left trumps the opinions of the American people. So his budget eliminates the Hyde amendment and imposes a number of other pro-abortion measures, like additional government funding access for the Nation's largest abortion provider, Planned Parenthood.

The Biden budget might be good news for liberal interest groups, but it is bad news for the American people and bad news for our country. I hope that my Democratic colleagues will think twice before forcing this massive government expansion onto the American people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Also without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF REGINA M. RODRIGUEZ

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I wanted to come to the floor today to share a few words about Regina Rodriguez, President Biden's nominee for the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado. Gina's nomination comes to this floor with broad, well-earned support across the State of Colorado. My office has received a flood of letters on her behalf. All of them testify to her character, her hard work, and her commitment to service, justice, and the rule of law.

She learned all of it from her family. Her mom's family knew injustice firsthand. During the Second World War, they were relocated from California to the Heart Mountain internment site in Wyoming, joining over 10,000 people whose loyalty was questioned by the U.S. Government based solely on their Japanese ancestry.

Her mother Linda went on to become a teacher and administrator in the Denver public schools, my old school district. Her father Peter was a Mexican American who went from living in a railroad boxcar on the South Side of Chicago to earning a nomination for the NFL Hall of Fame.

Education and hard work transformed her parents' lives, and Regina has always sought to live up to their example. Gina grew up in Gunnison, CO, but her family moved around the country because her dad coached football. She graduated with honors from the University of Iowa, which I know is not the only reason Chairman GRASSLEY supported her nomination but probably was an important one, and then returned home to earn a J.D. from the University of Colorado Law School.

After starting at a private firm in Denver, Gina joined the U.S. Attorney's Office. The Department of Justice noticed her talent, and she went to work for the Attorney General on alternative dispute resolution—a new approach at the time meant to avoid lengthy trials through arbitration and mediation. She helped to mainstream the approach for all U.S. attorneys, saving the government countless hours and taxpayers' countless dollars over the years.

Gina's leadership in Washington earned her a promotion back in Denver, where she rose to become Chief of the Civil Division in the U.S. Attorney's Office. She was the first Latina to hold that position and quickly developed a stellar reputation among colleagues and judges.

Today, she is one of the most respected trial lawyers in Colorado and has received reward after reward for her work.

Her commitment to the community has been just as impressive. She is a founding board member of Colorado Youth at Risk, a nonprofit that helps kids stay on the right track. She served as one of Colorado's higher education commissioners and still serves

on the board of Denver's highest performing charter school, the School of Science and Technology in my old district. Somehow, she finds time to mentor young lawyers from underrepresented communities.

The evidence is overwhelming: Regina Rodriguez is an exceptional nominee with a distinguished career and commitment to service. She has blazed trails in Colorado and in Colorado law through the sheer force of her intellect, hard work, and character. Regina and her family are what we mean when we come to this floor and talk about the American dream.

She has my full and enthusiastic support, and I want to thank my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee for advancing her nomination with overwhelming, bipartisan support. They saw what Colorado already knows, which is what an exceptional judge Gina would make, and I wholeheartedly agree. I urge my colleagues to come together and confirm this outstanding nominee in a big bipartisan vote.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Neals nomination?

Mr. CRAPO. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 66, nays 33, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 220 Ex.]

YEAS—66

Baldwin	Grassley	Peters
Bennet	Hassan	Portman
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Booker	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Brown	Hirono	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Capito	Kelly	Shaheen
Cardin	Kennedy	Sinema
Carper	King	Smith
Casey	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Collins	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Lujan	Tillis
Cornyn	Manchin	Toomey
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warnock
Ernst	Murkowski	Warren
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Fischer	Murray	Wicker
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Graham	Padilla	Young

NAYS—33

Barrasso	Hagerty	Paul
Blackburn	Hawley	Risch
Blunt	Hoeven	Romney
Boozman	Inhofe	Rubio
Braun	Johnson	Sasse
Cassidy	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lee	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lummis	Shelby
Crapo	Marshall	Sullivan
Cruz	McConnell	Thune
Daines	Moran	Tuberville

NOT VOTING—1

Sanders

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 127, Regina M. Rodriguez, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tina Smith, Sherrod Brown, Jon Ossoff, Alex Padilla, Jacky Rosen, Tammy Duckworth, Brian Schatz, Chris Van Hollen, Catherine Cortez Masto, Robert Menendez, Richard Blumenthal, Patty Murray, Martin Heinrich, Michael F. Bennet, Sheldon Whitehouse.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Regina M. Rodriguez, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 72, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 221 Ex.]

YEAS—72

Baldwin	Durbin	Klobuchar
Bennet	Ernst	Leahy
Blumenthal	Feinstein	Luján
Booker	Fischer	Manchin
Brown	Gillibrand	Markey
Burr	Graham	Menendez
Cantwell	Grassley	Merkley
Capito	Hassan	Murkowski
Cardin	Heinrich	Murphy
Carper	Hickenlooper	Murray
Casey	Hirono	Ossoff
Collins	Hoeven	Padilla
Coons	Hyde-Smith	Peters
Cornyn	Kaine	Portman
Cortez Masto	Kelly	Reed
Cramer	Kennedy	Romney
Duckworth	King	Rosen

Rounds	Sinema	Warner
Rubio	Smith	Warnock
Sanders	Stabenow	Warren
Schatz	Tester	Whitehouse
Schumer	Tillis	Wicker
Scott (SC)	Toomey	Wyden
Shaheen	Van Hollen	Young

NAYS—28

Barrasso	Hagerty	Paul
Blackburn	Hawley	Risch
Blunt	Inhofe	Sasse
Boozman	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Braun	Lankford	Shelby
Cassidy	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	
Daines	Moran	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 72, the nays are 28.

The motion is agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Regina M. Rodriguez, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:58 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

HELPING AMERICAN VICTIMS AFFLICTED BY NEUROLOGICAL ATTACKS ACT

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise today to applaud the swift, unanimous Senate passage last night of the Helping American Victims Afflicted by Neurological Attacks Act, or the HAVANA Act. This bill will provide much needed assistance to the employees of the Intelligence Community, the State Department, and other Federal Agencies who have suffered from often debilitating brain injuries at the hands of our foreign adversaries. Too often, these injured public servants have had to battle the bureaucracy to receive the medical care they desperately require.

I am very pleased today to be joined on the Senate floor by the Chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Senator WARNER. He has been relentless in his pursuit of care for these injured public servants who risk their lives for us, who serve in difficult and dangerous environments. Senator WARNER and the vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Senator RUBIO, and Senator SHAHEEN of New Hampshire worked with me to draft the bill that the Senate unanimously cleared last night.

We are very pleased that the following Senators cosponsored our legis-

lation: Senators CORNYN, BENNET, BURR, GILLIBRAND, BLUNT, HEINRICH, SASSE, FEINSTEIN, COTTON, KING, RISCH, DURBIN, SCOTT, MENENDEZ, BLUMENTHAL, and HASSAN. I mentioned those cosponsors to show the breadth of concern in the Senate about these injured employees.

For several years, American personnel serving our country in Cuba, China, and elsewhere have experienced unexplained, serious medical harm, including, in some cases, permanent brain injuries. Their conditions are believed to be the consequence of a mysterious, directed energy weapon used by an adversary.

As we investigate the source of previous attacks and seek to prevent future ones, the bill that passed the Senate last night would provide additional medical care and financial compensation to Americans who continue to experience debilitating symptoms as a result of these heinous attacks.

The injuries that many of these victims have endured are significant and life-altering. I have talked with many of these victims. They have described debilitating headaches, a loss of vision, a decreased ability to hear, dizziness, and many other symptoms as well, including a decline in their cognitive abilities. In some cases, they have been forced to medically retire. In other cases, they somehow continue on while coping with these symptoms.

I have spoken several times to CIA Director Burns and the Director of National Intelligence, Haines, about these attacks, and I am heartened by the commitments that they have made to me and to other members of the Senate Intelligence Committee to care for the victims and to identify the perpetrators and the weapon used in these attacks.

We can speculate. We have our suspicions. But the fact is, we do not know exactly what the weapon is nor who is wielding it. We need a whole-of-government approach to identify the adversary who is targeting our American personnel, and I am grateful to the chairman and vice chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, who I know are committed to getting to the bottom of these attacks.

I hope, when President Biden meets with President Putin, that he will ask President Putin about these attacks, that he will grill him about them to see if the Russians are responsible. At this point, we don't know.

The public servants who work in our embassies and consulates overseas make many personal sacrifices to represent America's interests. They deserve our unwavering support when they are harmed in the line of duty, just as we care for soldiers who are injured on the battlefield. Last night, we took an important step in that direction.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I rise today to echo what my good friend